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Editorial and Pre-  
Guide to the Dic-  
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Appendix of Inde-  
Picture Credits

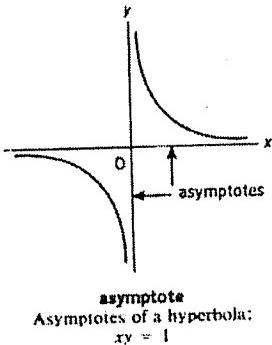
TAB

Bible  
Calendar  
Currency  
Elements  
Measurement

## asunder / atlas

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**a•sun•der** (ə-sún'dər) *adv.* 1. Into separate parts, pieces, or groups. 2. Apart in position or direction. [*< OE: on sundran.*] **as well as** *conj.* And in addition: *big as well as strong.* —*prep.* In addition to.  
**a•sy•lum** (ə-sí'lüm) *n.* 1. An institution for the cure of ill or needy people, esp. those with mental impairments. 2. A place of safety; refuge. 3. Protection granted by a government to a political refugee from another country. [*< Gk. *asylus*, inviolable.*] **a•sym•met•ri•cal** (ə'sim-métr'ikəl) *adj.* Not symmetrical. —**a•sym•met•ri•cal•ly** *adv.* —**a•sym•me•try** *n.*  
**a•symp•to•mat•ic** (ə'simp-tə-māt'ik) *adj.* Neither causing nor exhibiting symptoms of disease. —**a•symp•to•mat•i•cal•ly** *adv.*  
**a•symp•to•te** (ə'simp-tōt', -mpt') *n.* A line approached by a curve in the limit as the curve approaches infinity. [*< Gk. *asymptōtos*, not intersecting.*] —**a•symp•tot•ic** (-tōt'ik), **a•symp•tot•i•cal** *adj.*



asymptote

Asymptotes of a hyperbola:  
 $xy = 1$

**at<sup>1</sup>** (āt; at when unstressed) *prep.* 1. In or near the position or area occupied by: *at the market; at the top of the page.* 2. To or toward the direction or goal of: *looked at them; worked at the task.* 3. In the state or condition of: *at peace.* 4. In the activity or field of: *good at math; at work.* 5. On, near, or by the time or age of: *at three o'clock.* 6. Because of: *rejoice at a victory.* [*< OE *at*.*]  
**at<sup>2</sup>** (āt) *n., pl. at.* See table at *currency*. [That.]

At The symbol for the element astatine.

**at• abbr.** Atomic.

**at•a•vi•sm** (āt'ə-viz'm) *n.* The reappearance of a characteristic in an organism after several generations of absence. [*< Lat. *atavus*, ancestor.*] —**at•a•vi•tic** *adj.* —**at•a•vi•ti•cal•ly** *adv.*

**ate** (āt) *v.* P.t. of *eat.*  
**-ate<sup>1</sup>** *suff.* 1.a. Having or characterized by: *affectionate.* b. Resembling: *palmate.* 2. Rank; office: *pastorate.* 3. To act upon in a specified manner: *ocidulate.* 4. Product of an action or process: *distillate.* [*< Lat. *-atus*, p. part. suff.*]

**-ate<sup>2</sup>** *suff.* 1. A derivative of a specified chemical compound or element: *silicate.* 2. A salt or ester of a specified acid: *acetate.* [*NLat. *-atum* < Lat. *-atus*, p. part. suff.*]  
**at•el•ier** (āt'l-yā') *n.* A workshop or studio,

esp. for an artist. [*< OFr. *atelier*.*]

**Ath•a•bas•ca** (āth'ə-bás'kə). A river rising in the Rocky Mts. of SW Alberta, Canada, and flowing c. 1,231 km (765 mi) to Lake Athabasca on the Saskatchewan border.

**Ath•a•bas•kan** or **Ath•a•bas•can** (āth'ə-bás'kən) also **Ath•a•pas•can** (-pás'kən) *n.* 1. A group of related Native American languages including Navajo, Apache, and languages of NW Canada. 2. A member of a Athabaskan-speaking people.

**a•the•is•m** (ā'thē-iz'm) *n.* Disbelief in or denial of the existence of God. [*< Gk. *atheos*, without a god.*] —**a•the•ist** —**a•the•is•tic** *adj.*

**A•the•na** (ā-thē'nə) also **A•the•ne** (ā-nē) \* *Gk. Myth.* The goddess of wisdom, the practical arts, and warfare.

**ath•a•na•um** also **ath•e•ne•um** (āth'ə-nē'əm) *n.* 1. An institution for the promotion of learning. 2. A library. [*< Gk. *Athenaeum*, temple of Athena.*]

**Ath•ens** (āth'ənz). The cap. of Greece, in the E part near the Saronic Gulf; reached the height of its power and cultural achievements in the 5th cent. B.C. Pop. 885,737.

**A•the•ni•an** (ā-thē'ñē-ən) *adj.* & *n.*

**ath•er•o•scle•ro•sis** (āth'ə-ro-skla-roz'əs) *n.* A form of arteriosclerosis in which plaque containing cholesterol and lipids is deposited on the inner walls of the arteries. [*< Lat. *atheroma*, kind of tumor.*]

**a•thirst** (ā-thürst') *adj.* Strongly desirous; eager: *thirst for freedom.*

**ath•lete** (āth'let') *n.* One who participates esp. in competitive sports. [*< Gk. *athlētēs** < *athlein*, compete.]

**ath•lete's foot** (āth'lets) *n.* A contagious fungal infection of the skin usu. affecting the feet, characterized by itching, blisters, cracking, and scaling.

**ath•let•ic** (āth-lēt'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or for athletics or athletes. 2. Physically strong. —*Syns at muscular.* —**ath•let•i•cal•ly** *adv.*

**ath•let•ics** (āth-lēt'iks) *n.* (*takes sine, or v.*) 1. Athletic activities. 2. A system of training and practice for such activities; athletic supporter *n.* An elastic support to the male genitals, worn esp. during sports.

**a•thwart** (ā-thwôrt') *adv.* From side to side crosswise. —*prep.* 1. From one side to the other of; across. 2. Contrary to.

**a•tilt** (ā-tilt') *adv.* & *adj.* In a tilted position.

**-ation suff.** 1. *a.* Action or process: *strengthening.* *b.* The result of an action or process: *acculturation.* 2. State, condition, or quality of: *moderation.* [*< Lat. *-atiō*, n. sc.*]

**-ative suff.** Relating to or characterized by talkativeness. [*< Lat. *-attivitàs* < *-atus*, -i-* *at•lan•ta* (āt-lān'tə). The cap. of GA, in NW part. Pop. 394,017. —**At•lan•tan** —**At•lan•tic City** (āt-lān'tik). A coastal city, SE NJ. Pop. 37,986.

**Atlantic Ocean** The second-largest ocean, divided into the North Atlantic and the South Atlantic and extending from the Arctic to the N to the Antarctic in the S between the Americas and Europe and Africa.

**At•lan•tis** (āt-lān'tis) *n.* A legendary sun-

island in the Atlantic Ocean W of Gib-

at•las (āt'ləs) *n.* A book or bound collec-

tion of maps. [*After Atlas, legendary king of Africa.*]